empowered to import diesel generating units if these are not available in the country.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next question.

Spurious gas cylinders in circulation in the Capital

*2. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:
SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in the *'Hindustan Times'* dated 20th March, 1986 wherein it has been stated that there are a number of spurious gas cylinders in circulation in the capital which can explode;

(b) whether it has also been stated therein that such spurious gas cylinders can cause a number of painful deaths; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to enquire into the matter and if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH): (a) No such news item has appeared in the *'Hindustan Times'* of the 20th March, 1986.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Mr. Chairman, you have yourself heard the answer of the hon. Minister as "No such news item has appeared in the *"Hindustan Times"* of the 20th March, 1986". The Minister has taken shelter behind that. He is evading the answer intentionally. Mr. Chairman, I seek your protection.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You ask your supplementary.

SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: I seek your protection. If the Department or the Minister can hoodwisk us here—the chosen representatives of the people—you can imagine what is happening outside. Sir, this news item appeared in the 'Hindustan Times' on the 24th March. This is a very technical mistake. Instead of 24th, it might have been typed as 20th.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I agree with you.

SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: This is a very sensational news. It is playing with the lives of the people.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Put the question.

SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: This is a big scandal. There is a big racket operating in LPG cylinders. People are selling these spurious gas cylinders at Rs. 150, whereas, we can purchase a cylinder at Rs. 550 or so. I would like to ask the hon. Minister specifically whether his department is in collusion with these people. When the officials discussed the question with the hon. Minister, ten or twelve days after this news item appeared, I would like to know whether they brought to his notice that this date is wrong and that the news item appeared on the 24th March. Or, I do not know whether he was also in collusion with the department.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH: Perhaps, the hon. Member has not taken proper care in putting the question properly. If he has given the date as 20th, instead of 24th, the answer cannot be anything but that there is no news report dated 20th. About department's collusion, the answer is in the negative.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I will give you all an opportunity. Please wait. Let him put his second supplementary.

SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: I would like to know from the hon. Minister specifically whether any such news item appeared in the 'Hindustan Times'

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†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Mukhtiar Singh Malik.

dated 24th March. I would like to submit before this hon. House that terrorist bombs are a menace to the public, but these cylinder bombs are more dangerous and they are playing with the lives of housewives in the kitchen. This is a very serious matter. Why does he want to conceal this fact from the House and from the public. I would like to know whether this was brought to the notice of the hon. Minister, by his own staff, by his own department, that such a news item appeared in the 'Hindustan Times' dated 24th March.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH: I have already said that a news item appeared on the 24th March. The department has taken note of it and has taken corrective action on this.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Minister, when answers are prepared to questions, if you find that there is some discrepancy or some typographical error, you should not take advantage of it.

SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Thank you very much, Sir.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH: Sir, I am prepared to answer the question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have also been a Minister and I have told my department that if they prepare such answers, I will not tolerate. You please find some good . .

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH: Sir, I am prepared to answer the question about the news item dated 24th March. I only said, that the question should be put properly.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Quite right. Mr. Malik, you now put the question relating to 24th March.

SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: I thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, for allowing me to put a question relating to the news item of 24th. I want to ask the hon. Minister, what steps has the Government taken to check the distribution of these spurious cylinders to the public?

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH: Sir, there is no question of distribution of spurious gas cylinders. It is the question of checking the quality of the gas cylinders before they are distributed. Firstly, the quality of the gas cylinders is checked by the ISI and the Chief Controller of Explosives. Then at the time of the filling of these gas cylinders in the bottling plants they are checked at two points. Visual inspection of the cylinders is made and then cylinders are given water bath so that if there are any leakages they are detected. Instruction cards are also issued to customers so that they may take proper care while handling the cylinders. By these methods it is tried to ensure that no such accidents occurred. In fact, bursting of cylinders has rarely occurred. On a very few occasions it has happened like this. In fact, accidents have taken place because of some leakage of LPG, with or without accompaniment of explosion of the gas cylinders. So, these are the precautionary measures which have been taken and we are also trying to see that they are fully enforced.

SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Sir, I have one more question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have already had three-four supplementaries. Yes, Mr. Vaghela.

श्री शंकर सिंह वाघेला : सभापति जी, इस क्वेश्चन का लेटर एण्ड स्पिरट माननीय मंत्री जी ने नहीं देखा है । टाइपिंग मिस्टेक भी हो सकती है, लिखने में भी भूल हो सकती है । आपके डिपार्टमेंट को आपको माफ नहीं करना चाहिए और हाउस को भी आपको माफ नहीं करना चाहिए । अभी लेटर्स टू एडीटर को भी लिखे गये हैं कि क्या मामला गैस सिलिंडर का चल रहा है, खबर छपने के बाद भी । माननीय मंत्री जी यह हर घर में छिपा हुआ गैस सिलिंडर बम है । आई. ओ. सी. स्क्रेप में जो सिलिंडर फेंके होते हैं वे फिर से सरकुलेशन में आ जाते हैं, नीयरली 25

परसेंट आ जाते हैं । इस स्क्रेप के बारे में क्या कोई सिस्टम आपने ऐसा इवाल्व किया है कि ये सिलिंडर फिर से सरकुलेशन में न आयें और क्या आपका कंट्रोल गैस एजेंसीज पर है कि कहां कितना चल रहा है, कितने दो नम्बर के कनेक्शन हैं ? आपका बिल्कुल कंट्रोल ही नहीं है । दिन व दिन इसकी मांग बढ़ती जा रही है । हर घर में इच्छा करते हैं कि गैस कनेक्शन आये । इसके साथ ही बम भ हर घर में जाना है तो इसके लिए क्या आपने गैस एजेंसीज पर कंट्रोल करने के लिए कोई मशीनरी या कोई सिस्टम इवाल्व किया है जिससे जो ये गैस सिलिंडर्स फटते हैं फिर से इनका रिपिटीशन न हो । क्या आपके ध्यान में ऐसा प्रसंग आया है ?

श्री चन्द्र शेखर सिंह : एक बार जो डिस्ट्राय कर दिया जाता है वह फिर सरकुलेशन में आने की बात नहीं है वह बिल्कुल डीशेप कर दिया जाता है फिर वापस आने की कोई गुंजाइश नहीं होती है ।

श्री शंकर सिंह वाघेला : 25 परसेंट आ गये हैं । स्क्रेप सिलिंडर फिर से आ जाते हैं ।

श्री चन्द्र शेखर सिंह : 25 परसेंट कहां से आ रहे हैं यह तो हम नहीं कह सकते हैं, नहीं कहते हैं आपके पास कोई आंकड़ा हो तो हमें भले बतायें लेकिन जो डीशेप कर दिया जाये . . . (व्यवधान) अखबार में कोई सर्वे रिपोर्ट करके नहीं दिया गया है । दिस इज जस्ट एन असेसमेंट । उनका यह नहीं है कि उसकी जांच करायी गयी है, देखा गया है, आंकड़ा लिया गया है, एक अंदाज है उनका कि इस तरह से है । लेकिन जो डीशेप कर दिया जाता है वह फिर से सरकुलेशन में नहीं आता है बाकी जो इस तरह के स्पूरियस सिलिंडर हैं वे नहीं आयें उसके लिए हमने आपसे कहा कि एक तो जो बाटलिंग प्लांट है उस समय उसकी जांच की जाती है, बाटलिंग प्लांट में देखा जाता है कि कोई उसमें गलती है कि नहीं, विजुअल इन्स्पेक्शन से फिर पानी में डबोया जाता है जिसमें कि लीकेज न हो । और जो आई. एस. आई. मार्क है, वह उसकी गारण्टी करता है । इस प्रकार उसको देखा जा रहा है कि कोई गलत सिलेण्डर इस्तेमाल न हो । अब सिलेण्डर के वर्स्ट होने के बारे में मैं यह कहना चाहूंगा कि इसकी घटनाएं बहुत ही कम नजर में आई हैं, लीकेज होने से एक्सीडेंट हुआ है । जो अखबार में रिपोर्ट है, सिलेण्डर बम है, यह बर्स्ट करता है, यह गलत है, ऐसे केस बहुत ही कम हैं या नहीं के बराबर हैं । लेकिन . . . (व्यवधान)

श्री मुश्तियार सिंह मलिक : हुए तो हैं ?

श्री चन्द्र शेखर सिंह : हमारी नोटिस में ऐसी घटना नहीं आयी है, जो बर्स्ट करने की हो । वह एल. पी. जी. के लीकेज से आग लगने से घटना होती है, दैट इज नो बर्स्टिंग, दैट इज लीकेज । तो यह स्थिति है । इसमें जो कमजोरी है, वह एक ही जगह पर है कि डिलीवरी-बायज किस तरह से हैण्डल करते हैं और उसमें गलत धन्धा करते हैं या नहीं करते हैं, इसके बारे में विचार किया जा रहा है और हम लोग इस पर विचार कर रहे हैं कि डिलीवरी-बायज को कोई इस तरह की ट्रेनिंग दी जाये, जिससे कि खुद उनको जानकारी रहे कि कैसे उनको हैण्डल किया जा सके और इस प्रकार की कुछ व्यवस्था की जाये कि गलत इस्तेमाल वे उनका न कर सकें ।

SHRI P. N. SUKUL: Mr. Chairman, Sir, as regards the replacement of gas cylinders, I wonder if the Government are also aware of complaints regarding supply of underweight cylinders. Sometimes in the same house and the same family, a cylinder lasts for a month and sometimes for a fortnight hardly. It is no doubt a crime to realise the full cost of cylinder and then supply a half-filled cylinder or like that. I would like to request the hon. Minister to enlighten this House as to what precautions have been taken or are going to be taken to ensure that the cylinders are supplied to customers with proper quantity of gas therein.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH: As the cylinders come out of the bottling

plant, they are weighed and it is ensured that they carry the correct weight of LPG. But as they reach the agents and the delivery boys carry them to the customers, there are instances and there is a certain scope that this malpractice can occur and it does occur in many cases. We have come across cases where this has been detected. Deterrent action has been taken, warnings have been issued, termination also has been done. But we have yet come across, or been able to find out some foolproof mechanical device to stop this malpractice. We are trying to look into it and as soon as we are able to find out some such device, we shall introduce it. As I said, just now we are trying to see that better responsibility is put on the agents and the delivery boys and some such guarantee can be obtained from them that this malpractice does not occur.

श्री सी. सत्यनारायण रेड्डी : चेयरमैन सर, मंत्री महोदय ने जो जवाब दिए इस प्रश्न के सम्बन्ध में वे तो फार्मल ही मालूम होते हैं । मूल प्रश्न यह था कि जिस ढंग से जो सिलेण्डर में खामियां हैं, वे आम सर्कुलेशन में हैं या डिस्ट्रीब्यूशन में हैं, इन खामियों के बारे में था, साथ-साथ जो दुर्घटनाएं भी हैं, उसको भी रोकने के सम्बन्ध में था । इसके बारे में कोई ऐसा जवाब मंत्री महोदय से नहीं आया, जिससे कि मालूम हो कि इन दुर्घटनाओं को बन्द करने के सम्बन्ध में सरकार कोई इकदामात ले रही है । तो इस सम्बन्ध में मैं यह पूछूंगा, मंत्री महोदय ने खुद कहा है कि लीकिज वगैरह हैं, खराब चीजें हैं, दुर्घटनाएं हो रही हैं, तो अब तक इन लीकेज वगैरह के सम्बन्ध में जो सिलेण्डर में खराबियां हैं, जिसकी वजह से दुर्घटनाएं होती हैं, तो कितनी मृत्यु इनसे हुई हैं ? आमतौर पर समाचार-पत्रों में हर दो दिन में खबर आती है कि ऐसा हुआ है। तो अब तक कितनी मृत्यु हुई हैं, बताएं । साथ ही इसके बारे में सरकार ने कोई जांच की है ? अगर की है तो उसके बारे में कोई कमेटियां वगैरह सरकार की तरफ से मुकर्रर की गयी हैं तथा सिलेण्डर की जो खामियां हैं, उसको दूर करने के सम्बन्ध में आपने कहा कि कुछ इकदामात ले रहे हैं, उसके अलावा कोई ऐसी कमेटी, एक्सपर्ट कमेटी भी बनाई है, जो इसकी तफसील में जाय?

श्री चन्द्र शेखर सिंह : मृत्यु के बारे में मैं कोई विश्वास नहीं दे सकता और कैसे आंकड़े मेरे पास नहीं हैं । लेकिन, जैसा मैंने खुद कहा, कोई ऐसा फूलप्रूफ अरेंजमेंट नहीं है, इसमें अडरवट करके सप्लाई करने की गुंजाइश है। इस सम्बन्ध में जो तकनीकी व्यवस्था हो सकती है उसको देखा जा रहा है, लेकिन माननीय सदस्यगण के मन में ऐसा विचार हो जिससे इसमें सुधार हो सकता है तो मैं उसका स्वागत करूंगा और उसको लागू करने की कोशिश करूंगा । लेकिन यह निश्चित है कि अभी एजेंसी और कस्टमर के बीच जो गेप है उसमें इस तरह की घटना हो सकती है । लेकिन, जैसा मैंने खुद कहा, अखबारों में जो इस प्रकार की दुर्घटना की खबर आती है वह बस्ट करने की खबर नहीं है, वह लीकेज की है । लीकेज न हो इसके लिए कस्टमर्स को इंस्ट्रक्शन कार्ड इशू किए जाते हैं । इसके अलावा डिलीवरी बायज को ट्रेनिंग देने और उनकी क्वालिटी को इम्प्रूव करने की व्यवस्था सोची जा रही है ।

SHRI VISHWA BANDHU GUPTA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to know from the Minister whether he is aware that there are some spurious cylinders circulating in the capital with the housewives. If there are cylinders which are already in the kitchens, they are a potential danger. The question is whether there is a system by which the housewives can be informed on checking these cylinders, whether their cylinder is genuine or spurious. That is number one. Secondly, is the Minister aware that some of the delivery boys are even smoking cigarettes as they are delivering the cylinders? This is to my own personal knowledge I saw them doing this kind of thing. I want to know whether instructions have been issued to them not to do such things and also whether the housewives as well as the delivery boys have instructions as to how to check these cylinders.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH: Sir, the housewives are given instruction cards—I can place it on the Table of the House if the Member like—and necessary precautions have to be taken by them. It is also correct that sometimes the

delivery boys start smoking themselves and accidents do occur. This is a very weak link in the entire chain and we are trying to strengthen it. It is rule that inside the bottling plant whenever anybody is found smoking, he is immediately dismissed from service. This is a very serious offence. For the delivery boys also some such arrangement could be made: we are trying to look into this.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Mr. Chairman, Sir, almost every day we read in the newspapers the tragedy of death of housewives due to explosion of gas cylinders. They look almost like bombs planted in the house. Last week three such accidents took place in Madras city alone. So, I would like to know from the Minister whether, whenever such accidents are reported, the Ministry institutes or orders an inquiry to go into the reasons of such accidents and to take steps to prevent such accidents.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH: I have already stated that accidents do occur because of leakages and the police takes cognizance of it. They are reported to us also. Hardly any case of burst of cylinder, as is alleged in the news report, has come to our notice.

Tender bid for HBJ pipeline

*3. SHRI SURESH KALMADI:

SHRI DHARAM CHANDER PRASHANT:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what was the tender bid of the Franco-Japanese consortium Spie Capag-NKK which won the bid for the HBJ Pipeline Project;

(b) what is the schedule for the completion of the project; and

(c) whether Government had set up a committee to go into the issue of Aero-derivative turbine or industral gas turbine engines for the HBJ Pipeline project and whether this committee had submitted its report before the bid was announced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH): (a) The quoted price of the revised bid submitted by the constortium led by the Capag of France on 3rd April, 1986 was Rs. 760.48 crores.

(b) The project scheduled to be completed in all respects by July, 1989.

(c) No, Sir. The task force which evaluated the technical bids had gone into this issue. The recommendations of the task force was received and accepted before the award of the contract.

श्री रामानन्द यादव : मैं सरकार से यह जानना चाहता हूं कि यह नयी कंपनी को, जापान और फ्रांस की कंपनी को जो ठेका दिया गया है . . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Mobile Telephone System

*4. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have recently introduced a mobile telephone system in the Capital;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) what is the number of private subscribers who have applied for the mobile telephones so far;

(d) what is the number of subscribers who have actually been provided mobile telephones so far; and

(e) by when the mobile telephones are likely to be provided to the remaining subscribers?

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*The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Suresh Kalmadi.